MARVEL

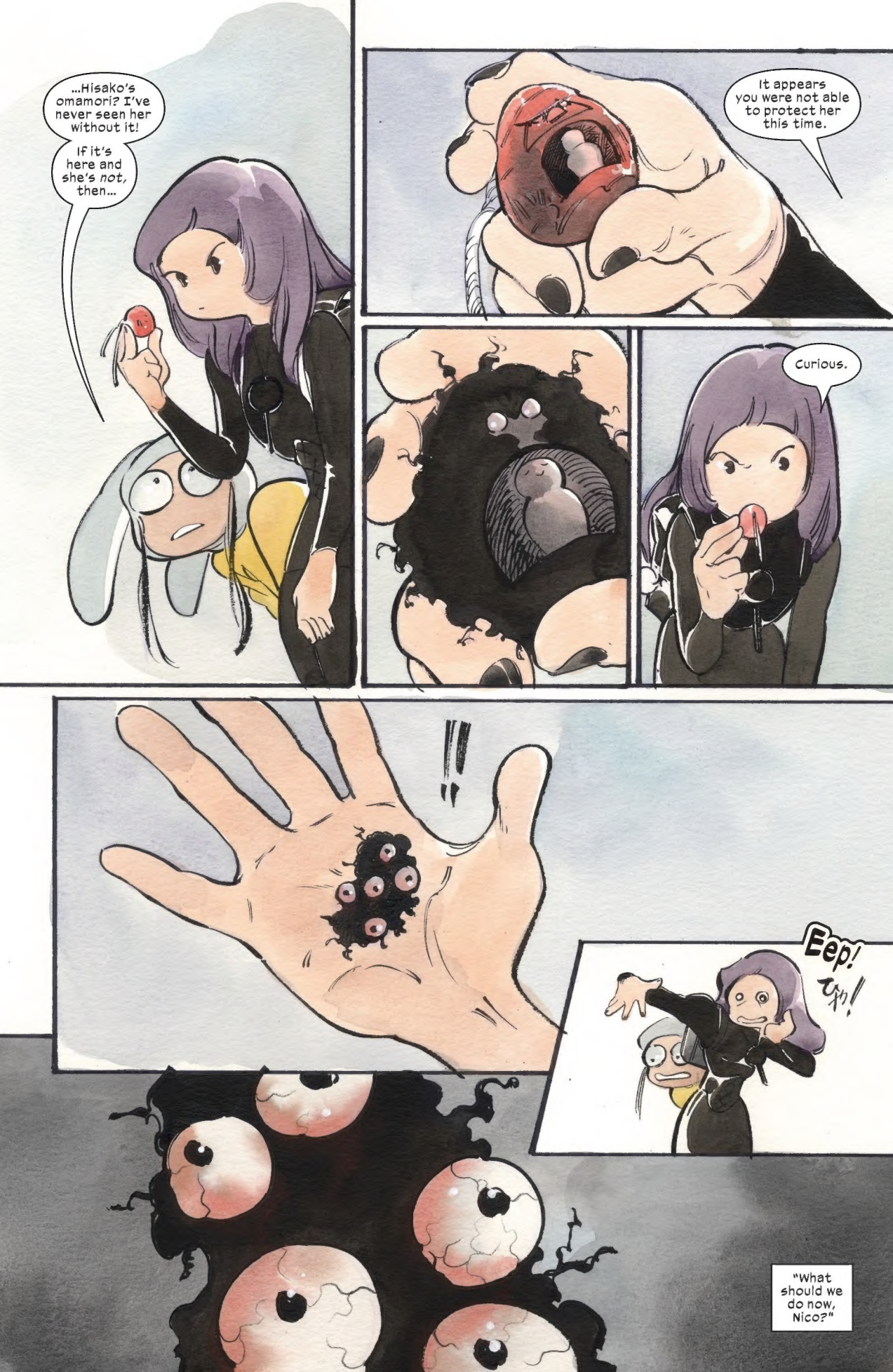
ULTIMATE X-MEN

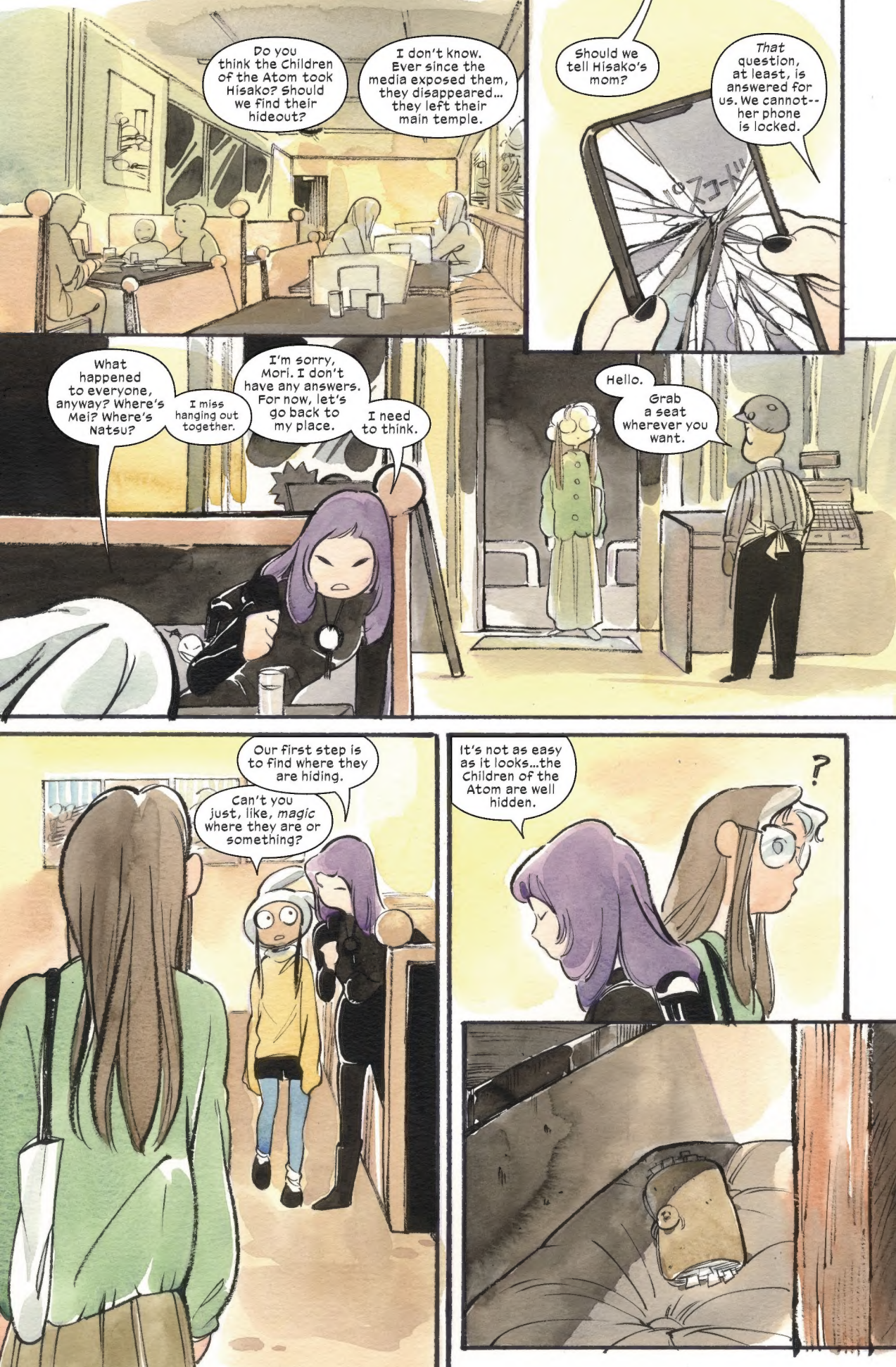
16

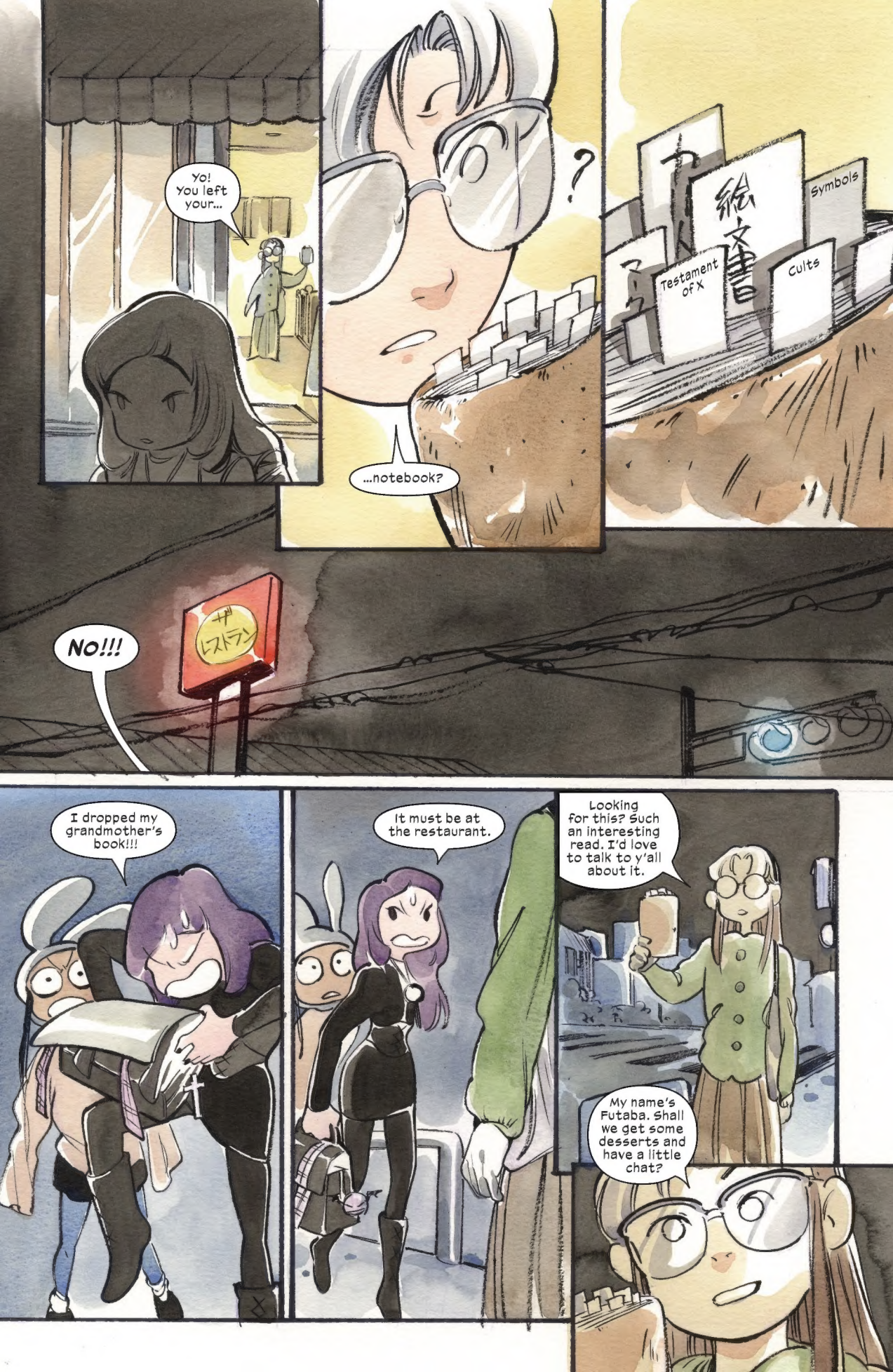
PEACH MOMOKO

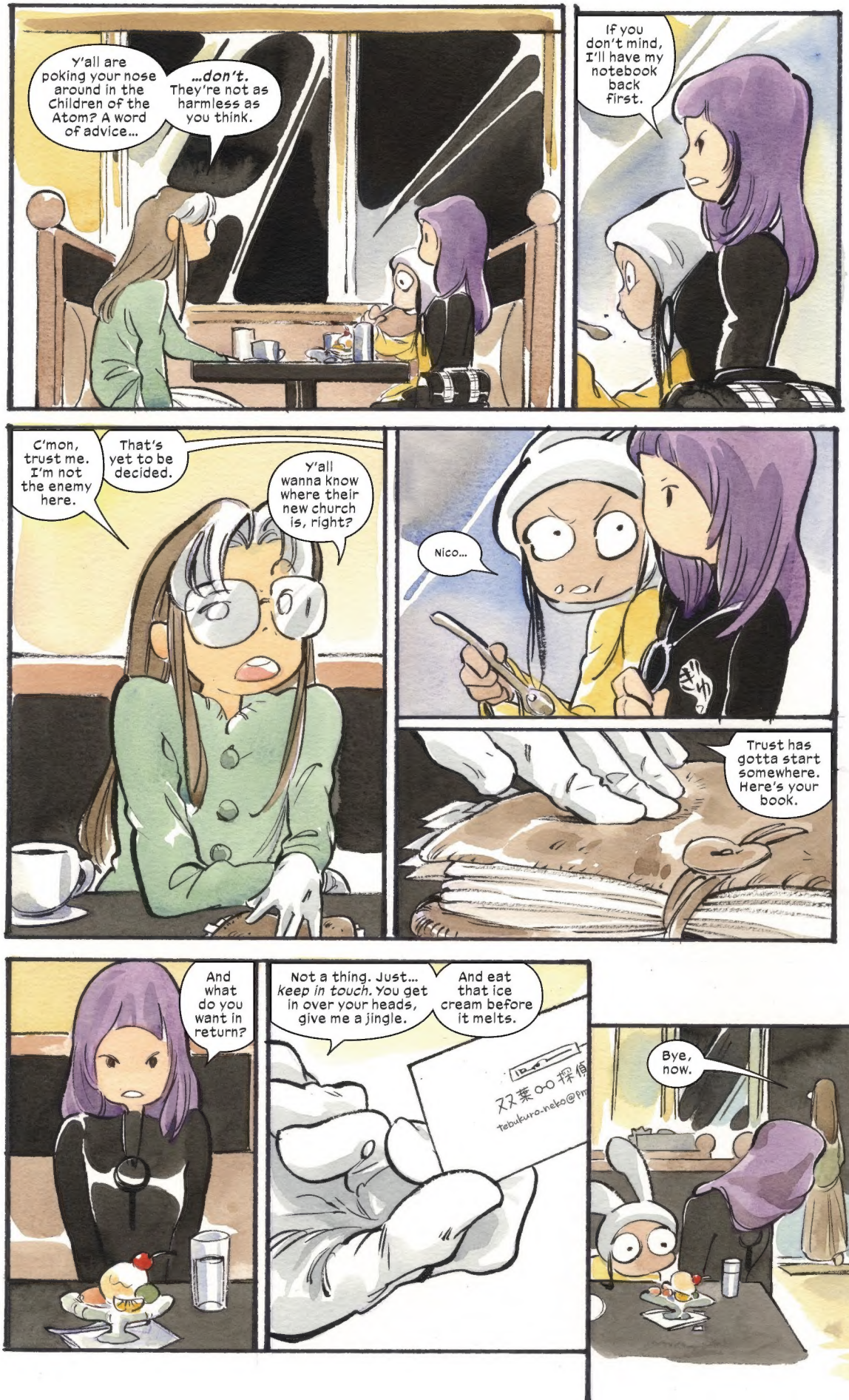
JUN. 2025 | RATED T+

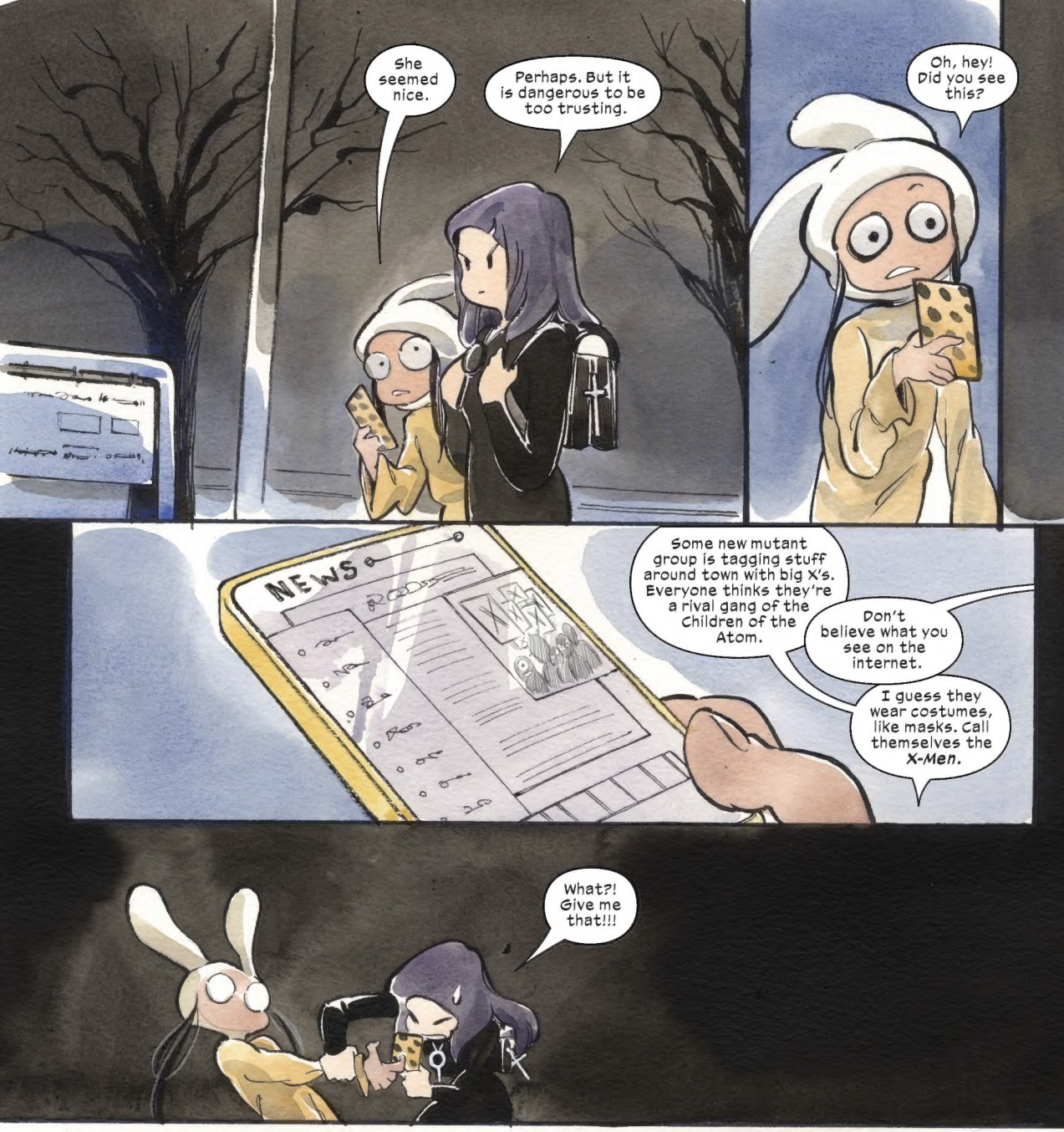
FOUR MONTHS AGO.
Hold on...
Why is my door open...?
Hisako?!
Whoa! It's all messed up!!!
All of the magic seals are broken...
Where's Hisako?
Nico, isn't that...

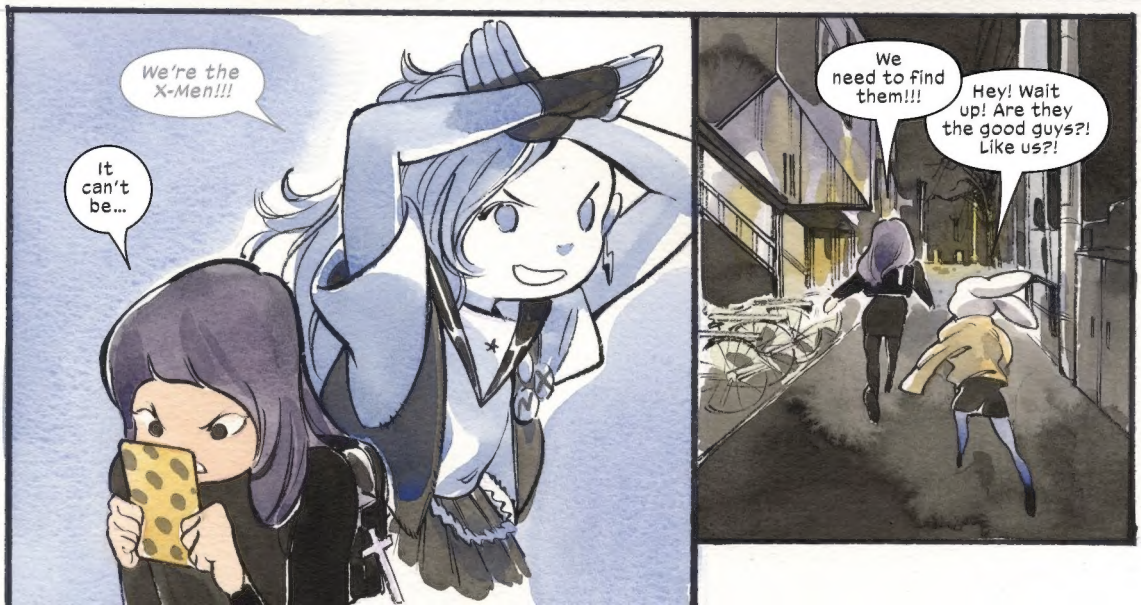

...Hisako's omamori? I've never seen her without it!
If it's here and she's *not*, then...
It appears you were not able to protect her this time.
Curious.
!!
Eep!
"What should we do now, Nico?"

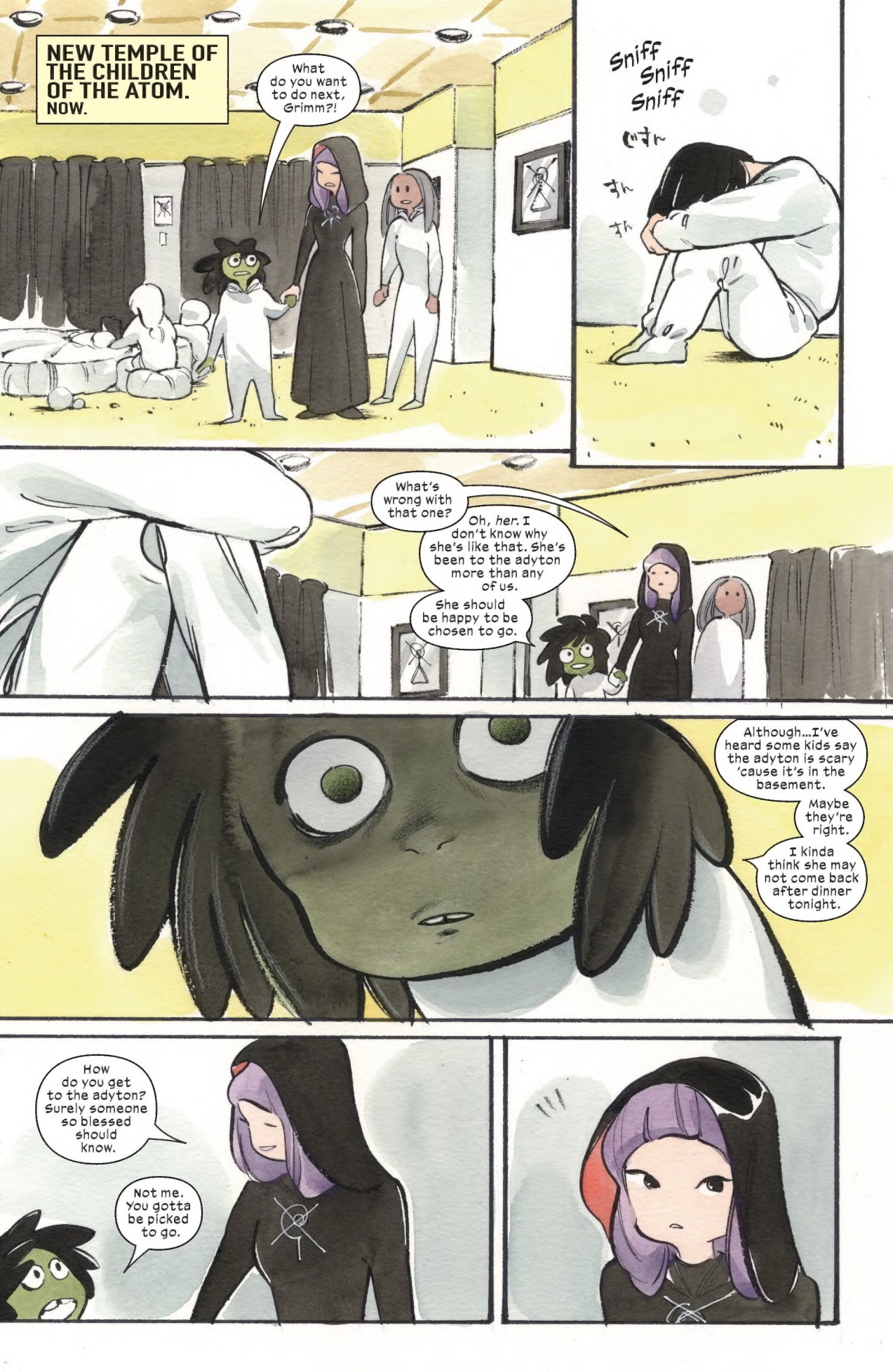

Do you think the Children of the Atom took Hisako? Should we find their hideout?
I don't know. Ever since the media exposed them, they disappeared... they left their main temple.
Should we tell Hisako's mom?
That question, at least, is answered for us. We cannot-- her phone is locked.
What happened to everyone, anyway? Where's Mei? Where's Natsu?
I miss hanging out together.
I'm sorry, Mori. I don't have any answers. For now, let's go back to my place.
I need to think.
Hello.
Grab a seat wherever you want.
Our first step is to find where they are hiding.
Can't you just, like, *magic* where they are or something?
It's not as easy as it looks...the Children of the Atom are well hidden.
?

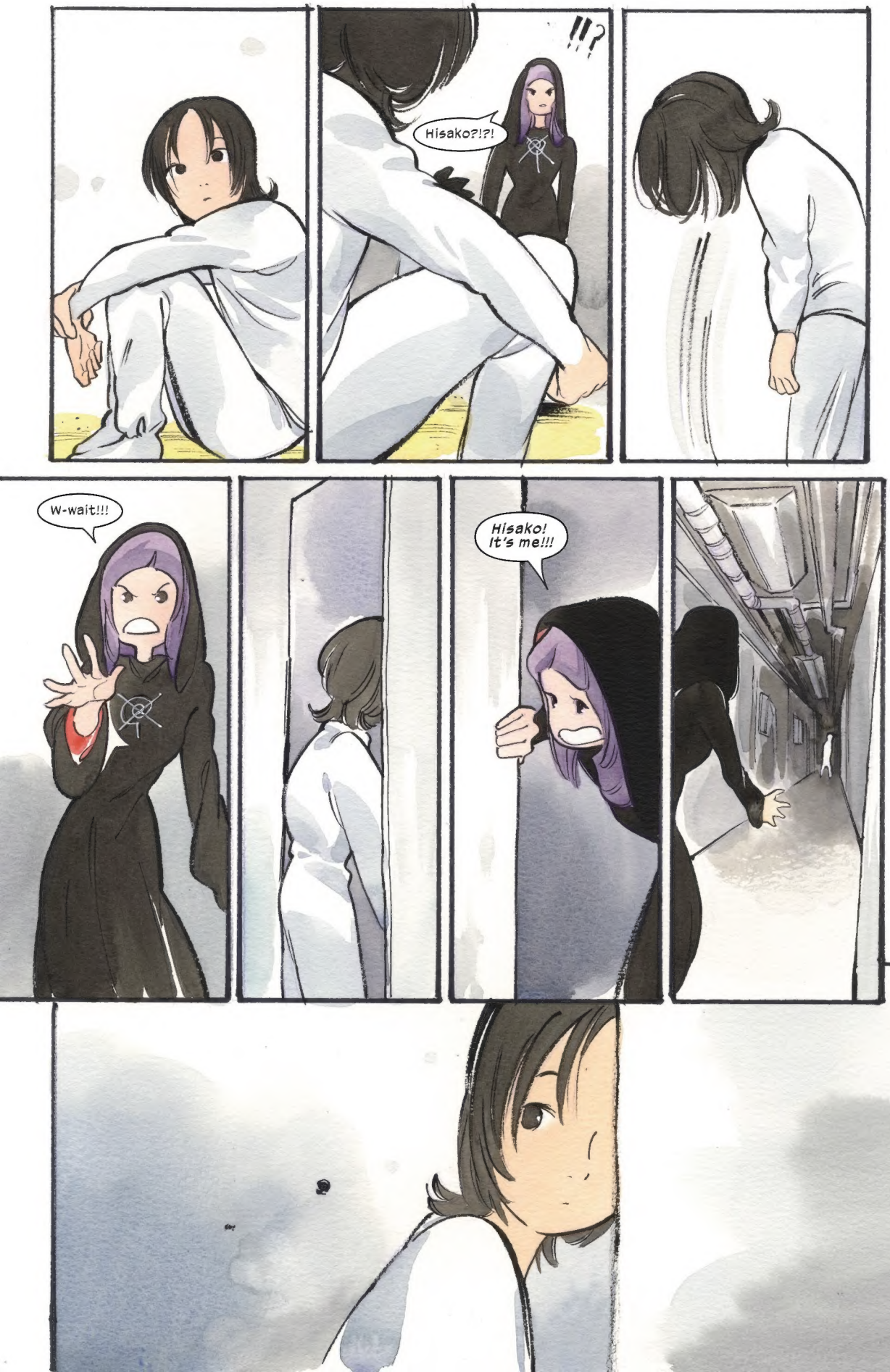

Yo! You left your...
...notebook?
?
Symbols
Testament of X
Cults
NO!!!
I dropped my grandmother's book!!!
It must be at the restaurant.
Looking for this? Such an interesting read. I'd love to talk to y'all about it.
My name's Futaba. Shall we get some desserts and have a little chat?


Y'all are poking your nose around in the Children of the Atom? A word of advice...
...don't. They're not as harmless as you think.
If you don't mind, I'll have my notebook back first.
C'mon, trust me. I'm not the enemy here.
That's yet to be decided.
Y'all wanna know where their new church is, right?
Nico...
Trust has gotta start somewhere. Here's your book.
And what do you want in return?
Not a thing. Just... keep in touch. You get in over your heads, give me a jingle.
And eat that ice cream before it melts.
Bye, now.


She seemed nice.
Perhaps. But it is dangerous to be too trusting.
Oh, hey! Did you see this?
NEWS
Some new mutant group is tagging stuff around town with big X's. Everyone thinks they're a rival gang of the Children of the Atom.
Don't believe what you see on the internet.
I guess they wear costumes, like masks. Call themselves the X-Men.
What?! Give me that!!!


We're the X-Men!!!
It can't be...
We need to find them!!!
Hey! Wait up! Are they the good guys?! Like us?!


NEW TEMPLE OF THE CHILDREN OF THE ATOM.
NOW.
What do you want to do next, Grimm?!
Sniff Sniff Sniff
What's wrong with that one?
Oh, her. I don't know why she's like that. She's been to the adyton more than any of us.
She should be happy to be chosen to go.
Although...I've heard some kids say the adyton is scary 'cause it's in the basement.
Maybe they're right.
I kinda think she may not come back after dinner tonight.
How do you get to the adyton? Surely someone so blessed should know.
Not me. You gotta be picked to go.


!!?
Hisako?!?!
W-wait!!!
Hisako! It's me!!!

Hisako! Please wait for me!!!
!!!
Hisako, don't you remember me? Nico!!!
It's Nico!!!
What's this? A lost sheep wandering alone, away from the flock?
My dear Miss Grimm, whatever could be the matter?
And who, pray tell, is this Nico?

I know all my children by name. None among them is called Nico.
Grimm!!!
There you are, Grimm!
She's new here and got lost. But we found her! Right, Surge?
...Yeah.
In that case, my children, I am so glad we found our lonely sheep. Miss Grimm, let this be a lesson not to stray. Now, it's nearly time for dinner.
Bless you, Maester, for finding Grimm!
After dinner, can you show me some more tricks, Grimm? I love your magic!!!
What...

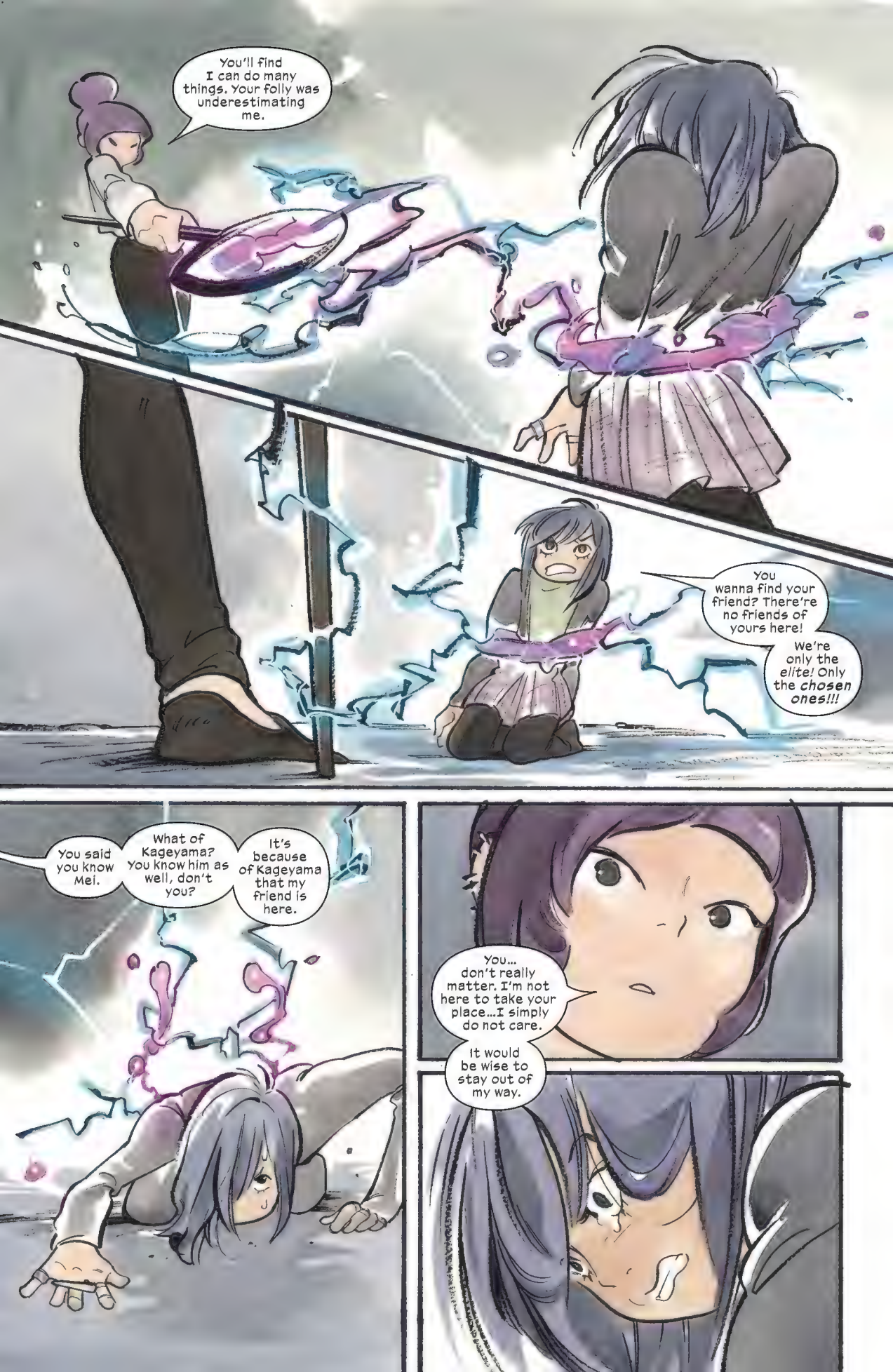
...the hell were you thinking?
I see you. Snooping around.
If I think for a second you're a traitor, I'll fry you right here.
This is my place. My sanctuary.
If someone's trying to take that away from me, I'm likely to get pissed off.
If you want to talk...
...do you mind powering down?
Can't I eat in peace here?
Utensils down, everyone! Let's get ready for bed.

You get one warning, "Grimm." Try it again and static is the last thing you will ever taste.
Nighty night.
Z Z Z Z...

No signal...
You have to be kidding me...!
!!
KZZZZT!
I warned you to stop sneaking around.
New girl. You're not so new, are you? We've met before. Not with that name...but with that face.
We've got a friend in common, don't we?
A little punk named Mei.

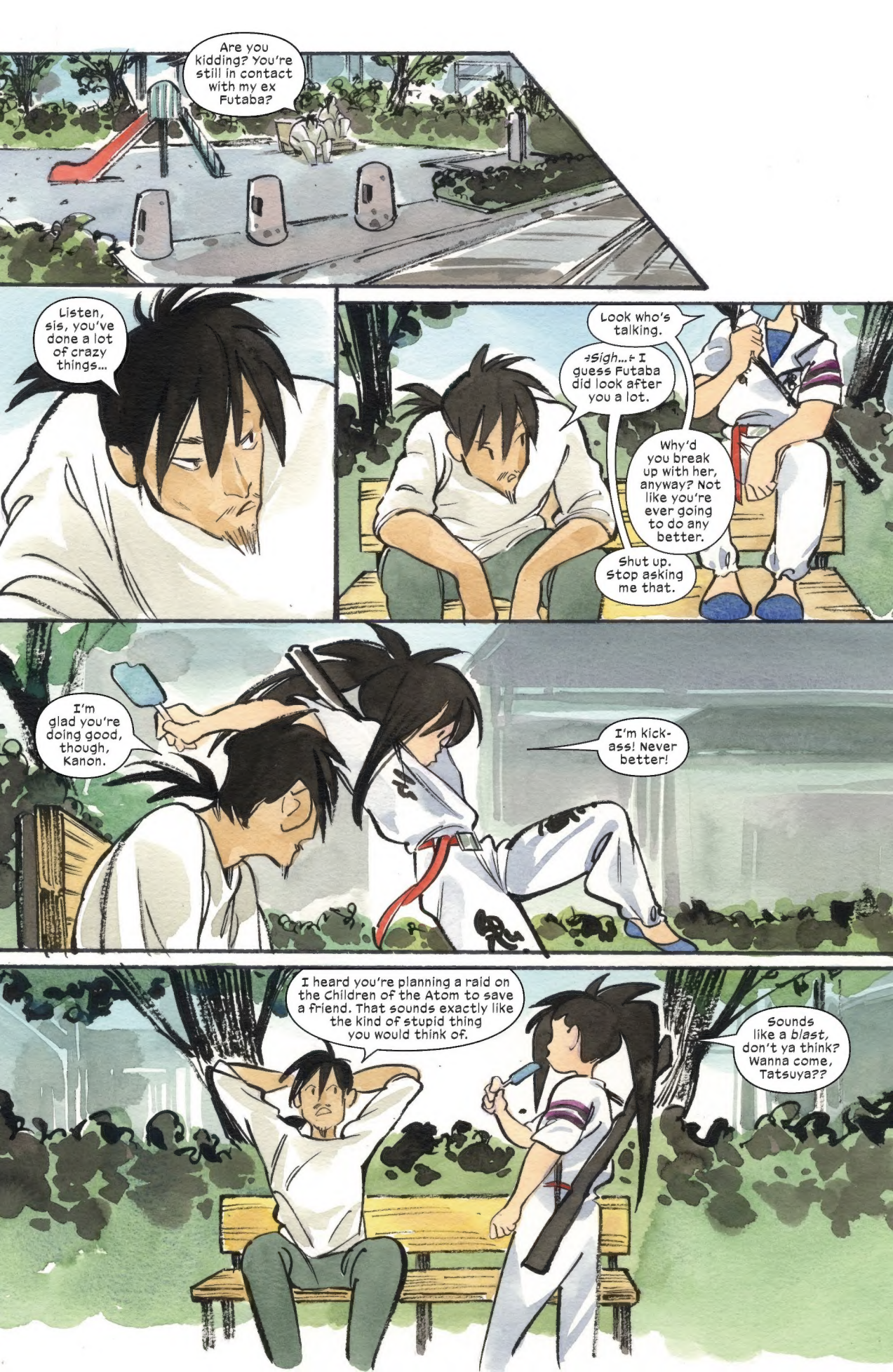
What do you think? If I turn in a traitor, will the Maester raise me up? Make me Superior?
Or maybe I'm secretly on your side. *Wanna team up?*
HAH!
As if, loser!!!
KZZTFFFLL
Look at that! I guess that staff of yours is good for more than just entertaining kiddies.
You're no fun at all! Come on, play with me! Say something!!!
What's so funny?!

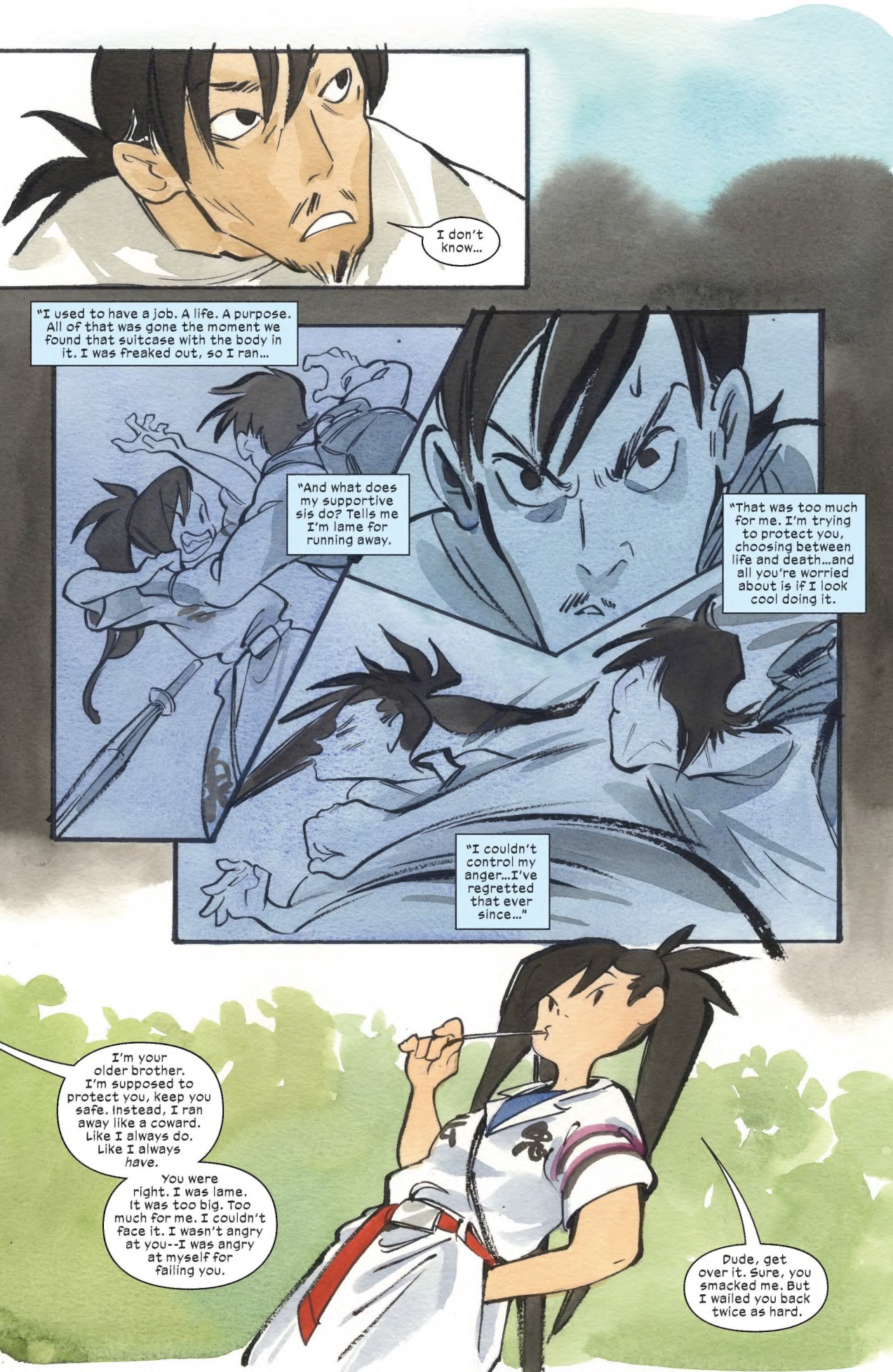
Heh. Just you calling me a traitor. As if I ever had any loyalty to betray.
I will miss the children, though. I truly did like them.
How dare you!!!
YAAAAAAAHHH!
In truth, I don't care about you at all. I'm only here to find my friend.
What?! How did you do that?

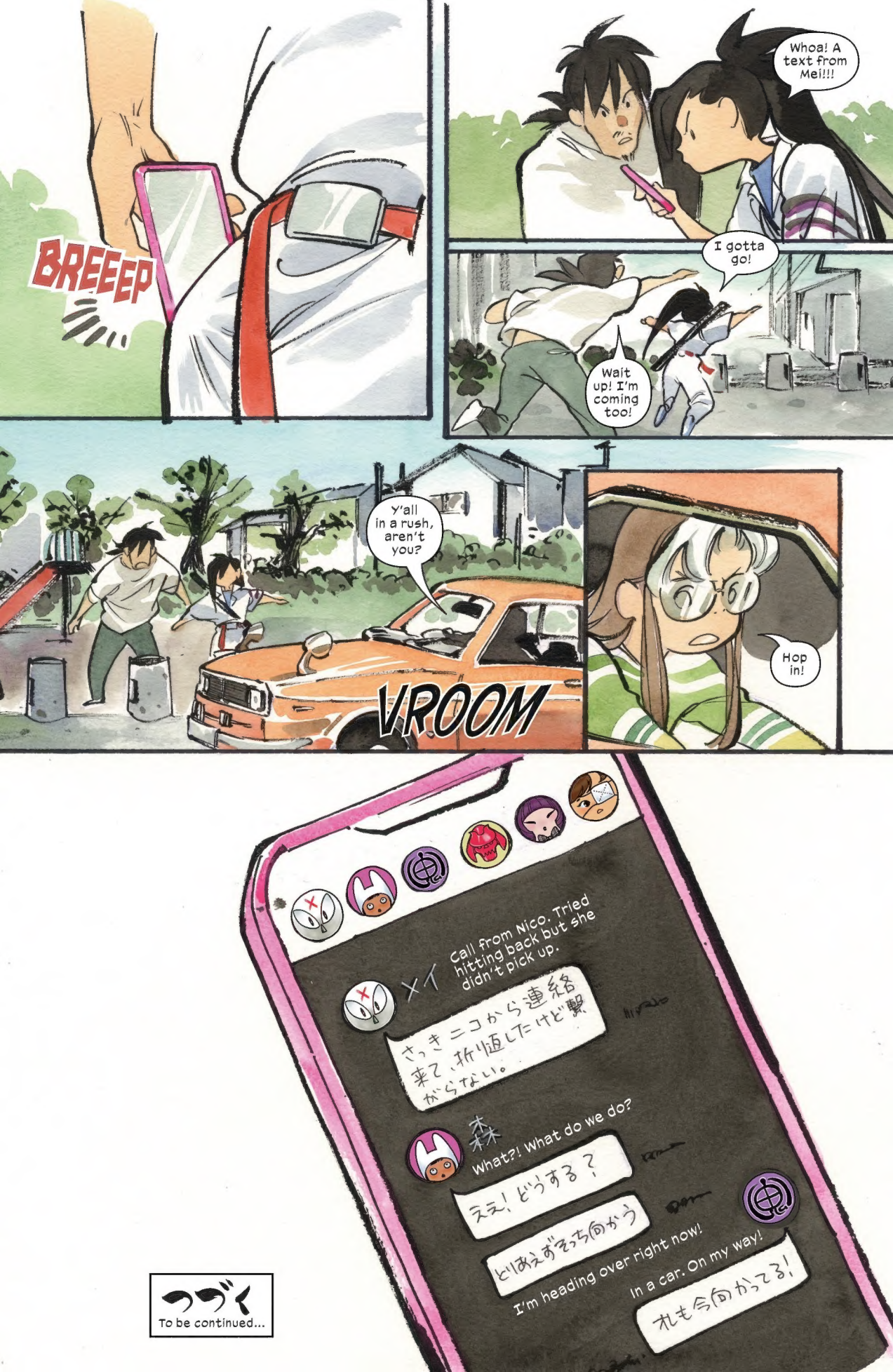

You'll find I can do many things. Your folly was underestimating me.
You wanna find your friend? There're no friends of yours here!
We're only the *elite!* Only the ***chosen ones!!!***
You said you know Mei.
What of Kageyama? You know him as well, don't you?
It's because of Kageyama that my friend is here.
You... don't really matter. I'm not here to take your place...I simply do not care.
It would be wise to stay out of my way.

Kageyama... you wanna know about *Kageyama?*
I've been wondering where he was. To think he was with your friend this entire time...
All I gotta say is...
...screw you!!!
You... You can fly?!
Can you not? How sad.
Perhaps *I* am the real *Homo superior?*

What--?!
Good work, my child.
I'd say you're far from being a true *Homo superior*.


Are you kidding? You're still in contact with my ex Futaba?
Listen, sis, you've done a lot of crazy things...
Look who's talking.
+Sigh...+ I guess Futaba did look after you a lot.
Why'd you break up with her, anyway? Not like you're ever going to do any better.
Shut up. Stop asking me that.
I'm glad you're doing good, though, Kanon.
I'm kick-ass! Never better!
I heard you're planning a raid on the Children of the Atom to save a friend. That sounds exactly like the kind of stupid thing you would think of.
Sounds like a *blast*, don't ya think? Wanna come, Tatsuya??


I don't know...
"I used to have a job. A life. A purpose. All of that was gone the moment we found that suitcase with the body in it. I was freaked out, so I ran...
"And what does my supportive sis do? Tells me I'm lame for running away.
"That was too much for me. I'm trying to protect you, choosing between life and death...and all you're worried about is if I look cool doing it.
"I couldn't control my anger...I've regretted that ever since..."
I'm your older brother. I'm supposed to protect you, keep you safe. Instead, I ran away like a coward. Like I always do. Like I always *have*.
You were right. I was lame. It was too big. Too much for me. I couldn't face it. I wasn't angry at you--I was angry at myself for failing you.
Dude, get over it. Sure, you smacked me. But I wailed you back twice as hard.



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To be continued...

LEXICON

HISAKO ICHIKI

STRIPED SHIRTS

Hisako doesn't buy lunch from the school cafeteria and instead makes her own bento box, including microwaved karaage (chicken in bite-sized pieces) and onigiri (rice balls).

Hisako wanted a pair of glasses for a while and bought some...but ended up not wearing them much.

ONIGIRI (RICE BALL)